

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 IO-12 EUR-25 NIC-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /141 W

----- 098962

R 180845 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1814

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8738

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: TERRORIST BOMB KILLS 21 CIVILIANS IN QUANG TIN

FOL SENT ACTION SAIGON MAY 17 AND RPTD FOR YOUR INFO QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 541

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJ: TERRORIST BOMB KILLS 20 CIVILIANS IN QUANG TIN

1. THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE TERRORIST BOMBING IN QUANG TIN (DANANG 533) WAS PROVIDED BY THE CONGEN LIAISON OFFICER QUANG TIN: BY FAR THE WORST TERRORIST INCIDENT IN QUANG TIN SINCE THE CEASEFIRE, INDEED THE WORST IN OVER TWO YEARS, OCCURRED ABOUT 8:30 P. M. ON MAY 15, AT KY LONG VILLAGE HQ., TAM KY DISTRICT, ABOUT 9 KM SOUTHWEST OF TAM KY TOWN. A BOMB OR GRENADE WAS THROWN INTO A CROWD WATCHING AN OUTDOOR MOVIE, REPORTEDLY KILLING 21 PEOPLE AND WOUNDING 56. ALTHOUGH THE MOVIE WAS A VIS ANTI- COMMUNIST FILM, THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE WAS OF A HOLIDAY OCCASION COMMENCING CELEBRATION OF BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY ON MAY 17. NO SENIOR VILLAGE OFFICIALS WERE HURT, ALTHOUGH A DEPUTY HAMLET CHIEF AND SOME PF SOLDIERS WERE AMONG THE CASUALTIES.

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THE VILLAGE CHIEF HAD ADDRESSED THE CROWD IMMEDIATELY
BEFORE THE MOVIE STARTED.

2. THE CANADIAN AND INDONESIAN ELEMENTS OF THE TAM KY ICCS
MADE OBSERVATIONS AT THE SITE AT THE REQUEST OF THE PROVINCE
CHIEF ON MAY 16.

3. (LIAISON OFFICER COMMENT: EVERYONE ASSUMES THAT THE BOMB
WAS THROWN BY A V. C., ALTHOUGH NO POSITIVE EVIDENCE HAS BEEN
REPORTED. THE PROVINCE CHIEF AND OTHER OFFICIALS IN PRIVATE
CONVERSATION DO NOT ABSOLUTELY FORECLOSE THE POSSIBILITY
OF THE EXPLOSION BEING CAUSED BY A NON- COMMUNIST, EITHER
ACCIDENTALLY OR THROUGH INSANITY. THE POLICE, WHO BEAR THE
RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANTI- COMMUNIST SECURITY, HAVE A CERTAIN
INTEREST IN KEEPING OPEN A POSSIBILITY THAT WOULD PUT THEIR
PERFORMANCE IN A LESS NEGATIVE PERSPECTIVE. HOWEVER, THE
STRONG FEELING OF ALL CONCERNED IS THAT THE COMMUNISTS AT
SOME LEVEL OF AUTHORITY WERE RESPONSIBLE. END COMMENT)
THOMSEN
WHITEHOUSE

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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